



The Caring Difference

The Newsletter of the Citizen Foster Care Review Board

After all, a home should be forever . . .

'Kids - 1st in Kentucky' is theme of 2004 conference

By Angie Funk
Conference Committee Chair

It's almost that time again! The 2004 CFCRB Conference is coming up Nov. 5-7 in Owensboro and will offer many opportunities to learn about topics affecting children in foster care. Volunteers can also earn the six hours of continuing education credits required each year.

We are especially excited because it has been two years since our last statewide conference, and this year we will be able to visit with our old friends and meet new ones.

Our theme for 2004 is "Kids—1st in Kentucky" and will focus on the four key areas listed below. Each attendee can choose two of these seminars to attend on Saturday.

- "Attachment Disorder and Permanency/Sibling Bonding and Visitation" presented by Dr. Otto Kaak from the University of Kentucky.

- "Teens in Care" presented by Gloria Booth, a former foster child, and Ron Campbell with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

- "TPR Has Been Granted! Now What?" Ann Blanford with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services will present a session on the Cabinet's internal policy for post-termination of parental rights.

- "Fetal Alcohol and Drugs" presented by Peggy Arvin and Jeanmarie Piacsek with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

General sessions will be open to all volunteers and will include a review of

The Executive Inn Rivermont in Owensboro is the site of the 2004 CFCRB Conference on Nov. 5-7.



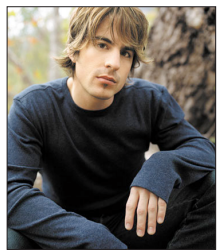
statutory guidelines and chair/vice chair training. There also will be a Judges' Panel, Committee Fair and Regional Meetings. And finally, the event not to miss is the Volunteer Recognition Banquet on Friday evening. Everyone is invited to the Hospitality Room afterward.

The Host Committee is asking each local board to provide a basket filled with items made in its home county. The baskets will be used as conference door prizes and should not exceed \$50. For more information, contact the central office or your field coordinator.

Registration forms were mailed in mid-September. Registration will close Oct. 15, so get your form in early. The \$10 registration fee will go to the volunteer bank account to fund the awards and hospitality room refreshments. Bring your fellow board members and come to Owensboro for an exceptional weekend. See you there!

Conference Special Event

Country Music Star Jimmy Wayne



Jimmy Wayne's life reads like one of the files we review.

He and his sister were in and out of foster care during his early childhood. When in his

mother's custody, they moved constantly. Often the only meals they had were the free lunches at school. Jimmy never really knew his father and when he was 9, his mother married a man who made his life even worse. His stepfather would use the food stamps to buy drugs. Jimmy had to steal food,

even from his neighbors.

By the time he was 12, his mother was in prison and he was living with his grandfather. He was arrested at 15 and placed in detention and later a group home. He started writing poetry as a means of dealing with the tragedies in his life. Writing poetry, combined with his love of music, led him to his current career in country music.

Ticket Information: Jimmy Wayne will be appearing in the Executive Inn Showroom on Saturday evening of the conference. Tickets are \$15 and are available for CFCRB volunteers on a first-come, first-serve basis. Tickets can be reserved on the registration form.

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Message From the State Chair

By Anita C. Williams



What a privilege to be a child advocate! To know that we affect the future of foster children and make a difference in the world should make us feel very proud. It doesn't matter what our gender is, how old we are, what career or profession we chose or what socioeconomic status we hold. What is important is that we chose this admirable calling in a country where all children deserve to be loved.

When I hold my 3-year-old granddaughter in my arms and tell her how much I love her, my heart

aches for those little ones who never hear those words. Love is a powerful word and a passion individuals must have to be a happy and satisfied person. Many children who pass through our court system never experience love from their parents or caretakers.

I recently read an account of a preschool teacher in Paducah who asked her little ones what love meant to them. Two of the comments that really struck me are: "Love makes you happy" and "My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night."

I hope you feel good about your choice of advocating for children. Because you are needed and appreciated, we hope that you will join us this year at the conference in Owensboro. The banquet will take place Friday evening, Nov. 5. Workshops and meetings will continue on Saturday and the conference will end on Sunday. It will be a time of training and renewing our friendships with other volunteers throughout the state. Because we didn't have a conference last year, this one should be special for all. I look forward to seeing you there!

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Division of Dependent Children's Services
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Kids - 1st in Kentucky Owensboro, Nov. 5-7



Don't forget!
The deadline for
conference registration
is Friday, Oct. 15!
You can fax your
registration to
502-573-1412.

Positive Momentum for the Child Welfare System



By Kevin Smalley
Manager of
Dependent
Children's
Services

Greetings! We have reached the end of a busy summer after a year full of activity and I believe we are seeing a lot of positive momentum. I speak of the momentum taking place in the CFCRB program as well as in the child welfare system.

Planning for the statewide conference in Owensboro is in full swing. I met with the Conference Planning and Host committees and am excited to see a great conference coming together. Volunteers and staff are doing a wonderful job finalizing the details and making sure all the particulars are just right.

I had the opportunity to hear one of our scheduled speakers, Dr. Otto Kaak, at a recent Court of Justice Appellate Conference attended by the judges and staff of the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. This was exciting for two reasons. First, it was great to learn that Dr. Kaak, a professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at the University of Kentucky, is a dynamic speaker who can educate us on attachment disorders

common to children in foster care. It was also gratifying that the theme of the 2004 Appellate Conference was "Child Protection."

The 2004 Appellate Conference was an important accomplishment because it resulted from several judicial and court staff trainings on child protection issues. Over the past year and a half, the Education Services Department of the Administrative Office of the Courts has provided training on child protection to the district and circuit judges, circuit court clerks, AOC managers, and now the Court of

education is leading to better understanding, which is leading to better outcomes.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is also diligently educating its workforce and other professionals with the expectation that it will improve the child protection system. As a result of ASFA and the Child and Family Service Reviews, the Cabinet has developed a program improvement plan that addresses all facets of its dealings with parents and children. This initiative includes enhancing the relationship between the Cabinet and

"Education is leading to better understanding, which is leading to better outcomes."

— Kevin Smalley, Manager of Dependent Children's Services

Appeals and Supreme Court. This is significant because we are already seeing benefits. Many judges have been inspired by the goals and objectives of federal initiatives such as the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), and are working diligently to go beyond the federal mandates to achieve permanency more quickly for foster children. To avoid delays, the Court of Appeals is speeding up the appeal process where possible in termination of parental right cases and other cases involving children. There are other examples, but the point is that

the courts. We are definitely improving the entire system for the benefit of Kentucky families and children.

I speak of positive momentum in the CFCRB, the Cabinet and the courts. We all make a difference. The CFCRB volunteers are indispensable to the success of this entire system. Thank you for all you do.

I hope you will join us at the state conference in Owensboro so we can celebrate our accomplishments, continue our education and dedicate ourselves to improving each and every day!

Book Review

Preparing Youth for Independence, Long-Term Success

Proceedings from the Casey Family Program National Independent Living Forum, edited by Kimberly A. Nollan and A. Chris Downs, Child Welfare League of America, © 2001, 150 pages

By Shelly Meyer
CFCRB Volunteer, Fayette County

Young people aging out of the foster care system face a myriad of personal problems. They have less education and higher rates of unemployment and homelessness. This book presents the knowledge shared at the Independent Living Forum, which was created to address the concerns of emancipated foster care youth.

Many issues are addressed, such as where we are going with public policy to help these kids. Independent living research and practice are examined. How do we prepare youth for employment and raise competent adults who are self-sufficient? One chapter explains how Boyssville of Michigan evaluates its supervised independent living

program. Another describes the Job Development Initiative, an intensive jobs-based approach to youth self-sufficiency. The strategy of the Casey Family Program is explained and tables are included to support the findings.

There is a method to help kids become aware of and access their gifts and strengths. Youth can be positively influenced to capitalize on what they bring to the world. Studies from around the country are provided as examples of successful transition to emancipation.

This book presents solutions to help foster care youth become self-confident and independent adults. It can be read as a general topic outline or with the study guide tables for more specific and in-depth understanding.



Foster Care Review

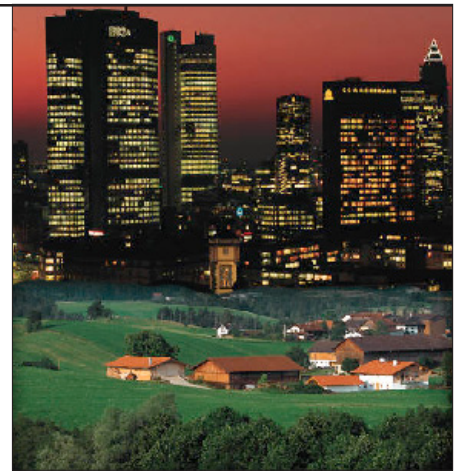
Big City vs. Small Town

By Christy Reaves
Editor and Public Relations Committee Chair

As a CFCRB reviewer for a small town, I had the opportunity in July to visit Jefferson County Chair Lea Fishbach. I wanted to understand the big city review. In retrospect, the dichotomies were of “anonymity v. familiarity” and of “systematic procedure v. steps.” However, the reviewers, the issues and the children could not be differentiated from anywhere in the state.

Reviewers in both counties can expect to review for about three hours, with some review sessions lasting longer if there is a spike in the number of children or absence of reviewers. Even though Jefferson County has the most children in care, the ability to break the work into separate boards allows for the process to remain the same. Remarkably, only one of the 10 Jefferson County boards has a higher caseload than Boyd County, where I live; the rest are much lower.

There are some obvious differences when comparing the review process of the two areas. The social services office in Jefferson County is huge. The building the office is in would take up an entire city block of my little town of Ashland. For the small town reviewer, imagine having a question that requires a walk from the corner of 15th Street to the corner of 14th Street to locate an answer. Often the answer is inaccessible because the worker is across town, in another building.



Question for Social Services Form. Instead, ask the question of the worker or supervisor in the next room, and report the answer on that day's review.

I have to admit that there is quite a bit more organization involved in the Jefferson County process. I could feel the paperwork machine hum as the reviews pass from dedicated file cabinets to table to stack to mail to clerk and so on, and then back again in two to three months for another review. In Ashland, it feels like a hand off from reviewer to worker to secretary.

Most remarkably, I can say that in the end the review is the same. I looked for the same information, felt the same connection to the child and conducted the exact same review as I would have for a child in Boyd County. It was a relief to see that my concerns about major differences were unnecessary, as the needs of the children, conditions of care and concerns of treatment are the same wherever we are.

I was surprised to find that I did not have to be concerned with facilities being bogged down by the number of children they serve. Did I expect to see children standing outside an office with no foster home to enter? Did I expect to see reviewers who could not remember a child's name, needs and issues? Well, I guess I did. Thank goodness for enlightenment. Now I feel a greater connection with every reviewer from every corner of the state. We are doing the same work, learning the same information, asking the same questions and caring for the same children. We should call ourselves a brotherhood instead of an organization.

Thank you for the opportunity, Lea!

**“Thank goodness for enlightenment.
Now I feel a greater connection to every
reviewer from every corner of the state.”**

Big city reviewer: Imagine knowing by first name every social worker, supervisor and office support worker who comes into contact with every child you review. Big city reviewer: Imagine having to hardly ever submit the

A Look at Two Review Boards: Jefferson County and Boyd County

Area	Description	Population		Boards	Current Children in Care	Reviewers	Ratio Children: Reviewer
Jefferson County/ Louisville	98% Urban 2% Rural	694,000	77% Caucasian 19% African American 2% Hispanic 2% Asian 2% Two or more races or other	10	841	35	25:1
Boyd County/ Ashland	74% Urban 26% Rural	50,000	95% Caucasian 2% African American 2% Hispanic 1% Asian or two or more races	1	117	3	40:1

Under Construction:

The New CFCRB Resource Center

By Shelly Meyer
CFCRB Volunteer, Fayette County

I am pleased to announce that a Resource Center is being built for CFCRB volunteers. The Training Committee formed a subcommittee charged with creating a multimedia center to serve as a source for foster care information. This means that after a volunteer completes the six initial training hours, he or she can earn the minimum six hours of continuing education requirement by using the Resource Center.

The Resource Center will be located in Frankfort initially and will eventually be available in all field offices. Bruce Jones, CFCRB field coordinator, is our Frankfort partner on this project. He has established space to house the Resource Center at the Administrative Office of the Court, and his advice and expertise are proving essential.

Here's what you need to know about the process: Lending and feedback forms must be drafted so members can share opinions about materials they have used. The materials must be examined for relevancy and subject content. Each piece has to be assigned a recommended weight, by hours. A filing system and a catalog of materials is required. And we must find outlets for media resources, especially those available at a reduced cost or free.

Think about concerns and issues that you have when reviewing cases. What kinds of information would you like to see in your Resource Center? Your input is valuable and we want to hear from you. Give Bruce Jones a call at 800-928-2350 with your ideas. The more we know about foster kids, the better equipped we are to make informed decisions about their care.

Crystal Bohlander has gathered Internet information about subjects pertinent to board members. She has also secured books, videos, CDs and pamphlets from various sources and provided attractive bookplates to recognize the contributors.

Right now, the entire Resource Center can fit into a computer box! We're looking forward to seeing it grow. We welcome donations from you, your board or anyone interested in high-quality care for foster kids.

The Resource Center Committee currently consists of Bill Ferzacca, Charlene Greer and Shelly Meyer. There is much to do. We need to submit a mission statement to the Training Committee and establish subject areas and parameters for acceptable media. If you would like to join this team of enthusiastic volunteers, call Bruce Jones at 800-928-2350.

Thank You to Contributors

Warren B CFCRB: *Love and Diane* video

Daviess CFCRB: *The Misunderstood Child, Living Through the Meantime, The Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Workbook and Emotional Intelligence*

Bob Danzig: *Every Child Deserves a Champion, Vitamins for the Spirit, Angel Threads, There Is Only One You, The Leader Within You* and a recording of *Conversations on Leadership*

Dick Meyer: *Every Child Deserves a Champion* and *Preparing Youth for Long-Term Success*



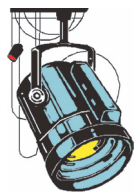
On the Calendar

Meetings • Events • Trainings

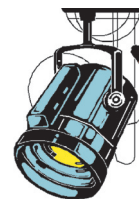
2004 State Conference

Executive Inn Rivermont
Owensboro, Ky.
Nov. 5-7

For more information, call the
Department of Dependent Children's Services at 800-928-2350.



Spotlight On: Ballard/ Carlisle & Greenup Counties



Ballard/ Carlisle Counties

By Dolores Smith
Field Supervisor

Foster children in Ballard/Carlisle counties benefit from successful suitcase drive

This is a very dedicated, diligent group of volunteers who enjoy an excellent working relationship with the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS).

This board recently organized a suitcase drive for foster care children in their counties. The drive was based on the need expressed by the DCBS supervisor, who was hoping to get five suitcases for children in foster care. Thanks to the Ballard/Carlisle CFCRB, they ended up with 16 suitcases! Not only did board members donate suitcases, but Board Chair Pat Geveden enlisted the aid of the Ballard County Homemakers, which also donated suitcases. That pretty much sums up the personality exuded by this board: If they see a need for children, they do their best to meet that need. That is exactly how they approach the review process as well.



Earlier, I mentioned that this board is very dedicated. There are 52 years of experience represented by the members on the board! That alone underscores the strong level of involvement these board members demonstrate. Much appreciation goes out to all board members of the Ballard/Carlisle CFCRB for their consistent commitment to this program and the children of Kentucky.



Members of the Ballard/Carlisle Citizen Foster Care Review Board are, front row, from left: Chair Pat Geveden, Nancy Piper, Vice Chair Suzanne Allen; back row: DCBS FSOS Rose Bryant, DCBS SRAA Peggy Meriedeth, Pat Knowles and Mary Pace.

Greenup County

By Christy Reaves
Editor

Greenup County reviewer helps create first Foster and Adoption Resource Center in the state

It truly is a happy place. As you walk through the For Jamie's Sake Foster and Adoption Resource Center, you can feel the hope and promise that the first foster and adoption resource center in the state brings to the adoption process and to the foster children of our area.

Greenup County Board Chair Becky Brown, along with two other founders, Mary Clarke and Lea Ann Gollihue, have created a positive environment that will serve as a resource to the community and to foster and adoptive parents and children.

The center is an "adoption information hub" for all adoption agencies in good standing. Becky said the hub can be the starting point for people considering adoption. They want to save people time by locating all information in one place.

In the future, For Jamie's Sake will recruit resource families, provide a meeting place for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services' Foster Parent Training and create a Resource Library for foster families. When video equipment is installed, the agency will provide space for social workers to monitor visitation for birth and adoptive families.

Becky also has a connection to Adopt Kids USA, which will begin an advertising campaign to change the stereotype of the foster child. In a small way she has already begun the process by completing a clothing closet. She hopes no foster child in our area can ever be identified by the appearance of their clothes.

Even though the doors have just opened, we know the results of the hard work and dedication of these three women will affect the lives of many people in the future.

Although Becky is at the forefront, the Greenup County CFCRB has worked endless hours to help open the doors of this facility. This close-knit group is dedicated to the welfare of children and all of the board members have contributed in one way or another.



The members of the Greenup County CFCRB are, front row, from left: Donna Blackburn and Claudette Carnley; back row: Amy Reed and Becky Brown.

On My Own

Poem By Jamie Slone, 14
Adopted Child

Let me run away
To a place where no one can
find me
I'm not scared of the pain
I just want them to let me be
They say don't fight it
They say just deal
But I'm not that strong
The pain's so real
Confused as ever
I want to go and hide
No one will hurt me
It feels as if I've died
There's no one to guide me
No one to hold my hand
If I take myself away
Will they understand?
Or will they chase me?
With words of steel



They just don't know
The pain that I feel
I'm holding it in
But I'm not getting stronger
I can't take this mess any longer
Why don't they love me?
What have I done?
I'm just a child
Out having fun
Needing to scream
But my feelings are trapped
It stings, it burns
As if I've been slapped
Everything's going wrong
I can't seem to find my way
I have one more choice
And that's go and pray.

What is a Family Team Meeting?

— Submitted by Hazel Maupin, Chair, Livingston County CFCRB

Q
&
A

A Family Team Meeting (FTM) became a requirement April 1, 2004, for all out-of-home care cases. FTM can refer to a variety of conferences, such as a Case Planning Conference, Five-Day Conference, Family Case Planning Meeting, Family Unity Meeting, Family Group Decision Making, and Periodic Reviews. A FTM requires the participation of family members, the social services worker (and other Cabinet for Health and Family Services staff as needed), and at least one community partner.

Community partners may include Family Support, Child Support, Child Care, mental health counselors, medical health professionals, legal representatives, court personnel, teachers or others in the school community, Family Resource and Youth Services centers, care providers, friends, neighbors and people from the family's faith community. Those participating in the Family Team Meeting sign confidentiality agreements.

FTMs are part of the approach used by Comprehensive Family Services to help families achieve their case plan objectives and desired outcomes. At the initial

meeting, family and community partners develop a case plan that includes a timeline for the tasks and services necessary to achieve the family's objectives.

In subsequent meetings, the participants review and document progress toward objectives, timeliness in accomplishing tasks and needed revisions to the plan. FTMs may continue throughout the life of a case.

FTMs are required for all second referrals substantiated on children age 3 and younger. They are also required at reunification, adoption finalization and relative placement; on all placement disruptions; prior to case closure on all out-of-home care cases; at the five-day conference; and at the out-of-home care case review at three, six or nine months.

FTMs are encouraged at the opening of all in-home Child Protective Services cases where the services of community partners are needed and the family agrees to their participation. The family can choose who they want involved in the FTM except in out-of-home care cases. The service region administrator must approve exceptions to required FTMs.

What makes *your* CFCRB special?

How do you personalize your local board? We know many of you do more than review files. Whether you make cookies at Christmas, have lunch with your judge or decorate the visitation room, you find ways to make the foster care review process special in your area.

Please send us your ideas! We want to share them with the rest of the state. Send them to Christy Reaves at christyreaves@iglou.com or Mae Philbeck at maep@mail.aoc.state.ky.us.



Do you have past copies of *The Caring Difference*?

We very much need your help in locating past copies of our newsletter, *The Caring Difference*, for our archives. These are the issues we would like to collect:



- 1994 or earlier, any issue
- 1997 Winter
- 1998 Spring
- 1999 Spring and Fall
- 2000 Fall and Winter
- 2001 Winter
- 2002 Winter, Summer and Fall

Please take a moment to check your files or piles and mail any copies you find to Mae Philbeck, Education Specialist, Administrative Office of the Courts, 100 Millcreek Park, Frankfort, Ky. 40601.



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